

Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S FOREST HEALTH OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Governor's Forest Health Oversight Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Oversight Council** will hold a meeting open to the public on:

Thursday April 8th, 2004 at 9:30 a.m.
County Supervisor's Association - 1905 West Washington Street, Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ

- 1) Call to Order
 - a. **9:33 am**
 - b. **Roll Call**
 - i. **Present: Representative O'Halleran, Diane Vosick, Ron Christensen, Rob Smith, Steve Campbell, Hon. Joe Donaldson, Michael Neal, Amy Rex, Beth Zimmerman, Darrell Willis, Alexious Becenti Sr.**
- 2) Approval of minutes of the **2.12.04** meeting
 - a. **Mike**
 - b. **Joe**
 - c. **Motion passes unanimously**
- 3) Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Reports
 - i. Utilization & Commerce – Marty Moore
 1. **Appreciation to Kathy and Barron for their hard work. Meeting on April 20th to work further on consensus building. Draft Guiding Principles will be circulated to councils for comments**
 2. **Goal will be to come back with *Economic principles (agenda item for MAY – Perhaps joint meetings...***
 - a. **Working group will be working on incentives (state, fed, local, etc.)**
 - b. **Fiscal impact of 'other' bill? Jarrett's comment on tax credits not impacting state may be close to correct**
 - i. **Don't want to get out in front of Feds to incentivize industry -- they may not feel the need**
 - ii. **Concern with lawsuits...**
 - ii. Mapping & Assessment – Barron Orr
 1. **From the Mapping & Assessment workshop. No way to assess need for treatment. This sub will aide in accomplishing the creation of maps to show. Gene Trobia (State Cartographer) also participates...**
 2. **May also be able to work with the State Land Department to use State Fire Assistance to create this statewide database. Not just for wildfire mapping but also can show lots of other items (roads, etc.**
 3. **Existing projects have top priorities and won't be neglected in exchange for the long-term database.**
 4. **Write a letter from Council to Kirk Rowdabough endorsing funding through State Fire Assistance Grants (as long as it doesn't compete with existing projects).**
 - iii. Zoning & Implementation – Mayor Joe Donaldson
 1. **Replay of junk and debris issue**

- a. **Too many hoops to correct public safety hazards in a timely manner. Discusses the usefulness of the bill to enable the communities to actually adopt code. Lori clarifies the intention of the legislation – to keep the power at the local level.**
 - iv. Legislation – Mike Sommerville
 - 1.
 - v. Education – Michael Neal
 - 1. **PSA brochure & video (aerial footage provided by channel 15). Both will go on APS and State websites. Western Forestry Coalition holding Governor's press conference (FireWise) – try to get industry leaders and environmentalists involved.**
 - 2. **Project Learning Tree has requested APS/FHOC help with education information distributions.**
 - 3. **More funding from State Farm will aide in the printing of more brochures.**
 - 4. **Firewise week proclamation may be incorporation with Wildfire Awareness week.**
 - b. Cross-council updates / information sharing (Staff)
- 4) Legislative Update/ Update on visit to DC
 - a. Lori Faeth & Taylor McKinnon
 - i. **Good consensus bill will be strived for after HB 2127 passed unanimously through the Senate NRT Committee. HB 2549 will have elements that will be blended into the Forest Health & Safety Bill. Conference between two bills will be sometime next week. The House and Senate Committee are in agreement on the decision for cooperation.**
 - ii. **Michael, Kirk and Taylor were able to attend as well. There was an audience for the subject in the Senate and was very successful.**
- 5) Re-Cap highlights of Governor's Forest Health Conference
 - a. Lori Faeth
 - i. **Successful session, good solid recommendations were derived. Lots of recommendations for legislation were already incorporated into the existing legislation. The office of Forest Health option has been adjusted slightly...**
- 6) Discussion of Forest Service (Harv Forsgren) responses to the Council's letter of November 2003 to the Council
 - a. Diane Vosick
 - i. **See Harv's letter –**
 - 1. **Forest Service works with AICG (Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group)**
 - 2. **Moving from yearly budget to long-term projects. Also realigning from recreation to mitigation**
 - 3. **Planning will be more in correlation with individual communities. Won't bear the load alone.**
 - 4. **Class 2 and 3 conditions? – 18 mil acres (AZ NM combined) – Landfire will continue to define condition classes (2 years out)**
 - 5. **To support timber industry?**
 - a. **Counties were displeased with the brevity of the answer to the question and have pressed this issue further to learn specifically what is being done in SW – they are pressing for a Tech Asst. presence to accelerate progress.**

- b. Would like a presentation of the functions of the Forest Products Lab and would possible open an office and provide a representative here in AZ
 - c. *Someone from the Forest Products Lab should come here and do a presentation (AGENDA ITEM)...*
 - d. *A tool box demonstration will be possible*
- 6. The ECONOMIC questions were far too brief...
 - a. *Need more information – we need to invite Harv Forsgreen.*
 - b. ROB-KIRK-MARTY will do some homework with TOM to be ready from a visit from HARV
- 7. Utilization is by law is secondary to benefits to community and landscape. Cost is lowest concern.
 - a. Structure is highly inefficient – will create very high cost structure
 - b. Utilization focus is how can we get an economic benefit. They are required to find benefit for the community.
 - c. Subcommittee needs to determine how we can benefit from the funds.
 - d. Commerce is working with bringing efficient companies into the market.
 - e. Gov noted a need for the Marshall plan in AZ's forests.
 - f. Some of the accomplishments for treatments need to be displayed on the FHC website... Education is a huge part.
- 8. Use our GUIDING PRINIPLES to display to Harv how we want our Arizona forests managed...
- 9. Monitoring is budget driven – good that the Advisory council subcommittee is working on that issue
 - a. Not just for fire but also for ecological health
 - i. *Ask Monitoring subcommittee to speak to how they are dealing with that.*

7) Assisting communities to develop Healthy Forests Restoration Act - Community Wildfire Protection Plans

- 1. Template has been developed and will be on FHC website.
- 2. Who deals with WUIs and helps initiate a Community Fire Plan?
 - a. County in Apache combined forces with many others to form a council and fund a consultant (sensitive species, archaeological issues, NEPA issues). Cost was \$45,000.00.
 - b. Regional relationships are INTEGRAL in success of these plans.
 - c. Need to educate communities.
 - i. Perhaps the ADOC – Community Planning Office work with the various regional groups
 - ii. BLM are listed as partners in technical assistance in the
 - 1. Implementation & Zoning committee will determine a scope of these c
 - a. Recommendations to council on how we help under resourced communities get this work done
 - b. Short comings in getting this work done
 - c. Ongoing plan on how the state is going to integrate into this process

d. Email League fire chiefs and fire districts the WUI Template to encourage sending out to their constituents. Cover letter to detail why this is important to their community. (STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE GRANTS open in AUG. If they don't have this done, they're not eligible)

2. Growing Smarter legislation - can language be added to include WUI planning?

8) Work plan for the next six months

a. Tabled until May...

i. Az Corporation Commission presentation on environmental portfolio

1. Mark Spitzer

9) Future meeting dates and locations/ Identify facilities

a. Summer 2004 schedule

i. May 13th - Pine / Strawberry

ii. June 10th - Heber / Overgaard

iii. July 8th - Summerhaven

iv. August 12th - Flagstaff

v. September 9th - Greer

10) Call to the Public

a. Whispering Pines fire district... add from board...

b. Kirk and ADOC need to present on what they may be able to offer to communities in the area of TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE...

i. When technical assistance

11) Adjourn

a. Beth moves

b. Alexious seconds

c. Noon

Dated this 6th day of April, 2004 - Governor's Forest Health Oversight Council

CO-CHAIRS

Representative O'Halleran – Arizona House of Representatives

Diane Vosick – Ecological Restoration Institute

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>